

AP English Literature and Composition

Ashville High School

Mrs. Holli Smith

Course Overview

AP English Literature and Composition is designed to be a college/university level course. This course will provide intellectual challenges and workload consistent with a typical undergraduate university English literature/Humanities course. Please be aware that the literary texts of merit studied in the AP Literature and Composition classroom are complex, higher-level texts which may contain mature content and themes. Some of the topics discussed may be sensitive and/or controversial in nature. These texts are selected based on their literary merit and will be studied through their historical and cultural context. The instructional purpose is to expose students to perspectives unlike or in opposition to their own in order to analyze complex themes and to promote individual reflection, academic growth, and global empathy. The instructor of this course in no way endorses or promotes the ideas present in any text selected for student study- all views expressed in this course are strictly those of the authors, poets, and playwrights who crafted the texts. Students are expected to behave with the utmost maturity.

Major Works

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Ragtime by E.L. Doctorow

The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Macbeth by William Shakespeare

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston

The Stranger by Albert Camus

The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams

Independent Choice Novels from classroom library

Assessments

Objective Tests

Formal Papers

Timed Writings

AP Multiple Choice Exams

Group Projects and Presentations

Research Paper

Various Homework Assignments

AP Exam – Required

General Class Information

Grading: 50% = Tests/Quizzes, Essays/Papers, Group Projects
30% = Graded Classwork/Homework, Timed Writings
10% = Participation, Completion Grades
10% = Nine Weeks Exam

Supplies: 3-ring binder, Loose-leaf paper, Pens with blue or black ink only or pencils

Supply Wish List: Tissues, Hand Sanitizer, Sanitizing Wipes (Please consider bringing these for classroom use!)

Makeup Work: It is the student's responsibility to check the class website and ask for any work missed because of an excused absence. The student has two (2) days to complete and turn in any makeup work. Work missed because of an unexcused absence will NOT be allowed to be made up, and the student will receive a zero (0) for the missed work. If a student misses a test and the absence is excused, it is the student's responsibility to schedule a time convenient for both the student and teacher to make up the test. It is important for students to be in class as much as possible since class discussions will be frequent and important for success in this class. Time out of class can be detrimental because these discussions cannot be reproduced.

Assignment Deadlines: Deadlines are a part of life. It is extremely important to manage your time effectively so that you can complete assignments on time. Points will be deducted if assignments are not turned in or made up on time. See the Makeup Work Policy on the attached page.

Contact Information: Phone – (205) 594-7943
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AP English Literature and Composition Introduction & Contract

This course is not a typical high school English class. You are taking a college-level English composition course. That means we will be **reading** and **writing** the majority of the time. It will require you to do much of your reading outside of class so that we can use class time to discuss, analyze, and write. You need to think of yourselves as entering into a decades-long academic discussion about literature, society, and culture. Reading is a way for us to look at the world through another's eyes, to learn more about ourselves and others, and to experience things we might not ever get to experience personally. Being "well-read" is a key to success in this course and in future courses. Everything that has ever been written and published was written for a purpose. We will be examining the purpose of the writings we read and writing about how those writings affect us personally and society as a whole.

In past English classes, you may have been concerned with finding the "right" answer. In this class, there may not be a "right" answer; there will be your opinions and thoughts and your ability to defend these by giving evidence and examples from the texts we read. However, you cannot discard all of the other opinions about literature that have been written by literary critics and defended well throughout the years. You will be reading the literary criticism that is already out there and adding your thoughts and opinions to those discussions in some way.

For you to be successful in this class and on the AP Exam, you need to understand and pledge to do the following:

I understand that the work in this class will be challenging.

I understand that I will be required to do most of the reading for this class BEFORE class begins.

I understand that my grade will reflect the level of effort I put into my work.

I understand that deadlines are deadlines and work will not be accepted late.

I understand that by missing class time, I may be missing important discussions that cannot be reproduced or made up. This might be detrimental to my grade.

I pledge to keep an open mind while reading and throughout class discussions because some of the texts may be controversial. (Remember, this is a college-level course, and you are expected to behave maturely when reading about and discussing sensitive topics.)

I pledge to listen to my teacher's instructions and accept her constructive criticism.

I understand that my teacher is doing her best to prepare me for college and for success on the AP Exam. If she is hard on me, she is trying to get me to improve and to reach my greatest potential.

I understand that if I am struggling, it is my responsibility to schedule time with my teacher to discuss my problems with her and to get extra help.